बाद ही ग्यारहवीं योजना के दौरान कार्यान्वित करने के लिए कोई स्कीम बनायी जा सकती है।'' मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना है कि जब आपके पास रिपार्ट आ चुकी है, ग्यारहवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इसे लागू करने की दिशा में आप प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं, इसके बाद में कहा जा रहा है कि ''कोई स्कीम बनायी जा सकती है।'' What is the scheme or report which has been given by the Committee? I would like to know from the Minister concerned.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I will have the details sent across to the hon. Member.

State funding of elections

*22. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:†
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised any proposal of State funding of elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be enforced;

(d) whether any rules or guidelines have been laid down for such funding of elections; and

(e) if so, what steps have so far been taken in pursuance of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Central Government considered the various recommendations/ proposals relating to State funding of elections received by it. With a view to building consensus among the recognized political parties, it has decided to request the Election Commission of India for its consideration certain recommendations. Accordingly, on the 2nd January, 2006, the Government requested the Election Commission of India to recommend, in consultation with the recognized political parties, the quantities of the following items to be provided to the recognized political parties or to the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Abu Asim Azmi.

candidates set up by them taking into consideration the geographical features and means of communication available:-

"(a) For recognized political parties:

(i) Suitable rent-free accommodation for its headquarters.

(ii) One rent-free telephone, with Subscriber Trunk Dialing facility with a specified number of telephone calls over and above the free calls permitted to any subscriber.

(iii) the amount of time to be distributed on private cable television network and electronic media.

(b) For candidates of recognized Parties:

(i) Specified quantity of petrol/diesel.

(ii) Specified quantity of paper for printing.

(iii) Postal stamps of a certain specified amount.

(iv) For an assembly election, one set of loudspeakers and for a parliamentary election, one set of loudspeakers for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six such sets.

(v) For an assembly election, one telephone with a specified number of free calls, and for a parliamentary election, at the rate of one telephone for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six telephones.

(vi) On the day of poll, some minimum arrangements may be made for the candidates' camps at each polling station.

(vii) Supply of refreshments and food packets to the counting agents inside the counting hall."

A reply from the Election Commission is awaited.

2. The Government also decided that the Central and the State Governments both must share in the funding.

The scheme of distribution of the above-mentioned items would be worked out after receipt of the recommendations of the Election Commission.

श्री अबू आसिम आज़मी: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इस समय उम्मीदवार या कैंडीडेट के खर्च की सीमा तो तय है किन्तु राजनैतिक दलों यानी पॉलिटिकल पार्टीज के चुनावी खर्चों पर कोई सीमा नहीं है। इस संबंध में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार इस पर कोई अंकुश लगाना चाहती है? यदि हां तो उसका विवरण क्या है और यदि नहीं तो उसके कारण क्या हैं?

†[**شری ابوعاصم اعظمی:** سبھاپتی مہودے، میں آپ کے مادھیم سے مانئے منتری جی جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس وقت امیدوار یا کینڈیڈیٹ کے خرچ کی سیما تو طے ہے لیکن راجنیتک دلوں یعنی پالیٹکل پارٹیز کے چناوی خرچوں پر کوئی سیما نہیں ہے۔ اس سمبدھ میں میں منتری مہودے سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا سرکار اس پر کوئی انکش لگانا چاہتی ہے؟ اگر ہاں تو اس کا ووِرن کیا ہے اور اگر نہیں تو اس کے کارن کیا ہیں؟]

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, it is not correct to say that there is no ceiling. The total amount that can be spent in a parliamentary election as well as in Assemblies is prescribed and the total amount from both sources- candidate as well as from the party- has to be in that. So, there is a limit prescribed by the law and the party as well as the candidate have to go by the law. Only exception has been made with regard to travelling expenses of political leaders. They are not shown in that expenditure. This law was made by the earlier Government in 2003 and it is now in force.

श्री अबू आसिम आज़मी: मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी प्रश्न है कि उम्मीदवारों के चुनावी खर्च की सीमा बहुत कम है। इसको बढ़ाने की क्या सरकार की कोई योजना है? यदि है तो इसे कब तक लागू किया जाएगा? यह मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूं।

†[**شری ابوعاصم اعظمی:** میرا دوسرا سپلیمینٹ کوشچن یہ ہے کہ امیدواروں کے چناوی خرچ کی سیما بہت کم ہے۔ اس کو بڑھانے کی کیا سرکار کی کوئی یوجنا ہے؟ اگر ہے تو اسے کب تک لاگو کیا جائے گا؟ یہ میں آپ کے مادھیم سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں؟]

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, this is revised after every successive elections.

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Sir, the Election Commission had called an all-party meeting. But, apparently, there were divergent views

†[ ]Transliteration in Urdu Script.

and no consensus could be reached. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he is taking to evolve a consensus and whether the State funding would be effected in the forthcoming Assembly elections.

SHR H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, the Government is very keen to partially assist the political parties in funding. Sir, she is our senior colleague and she already knows that it started in early 70s, this reform that the expenditure which is borne in the election, should be provided by the State. And, in 1972, there was a Parliamentary Committee. Thereafter, we had the famous Inderjit Gupta Committee. They made a recommendation only suggesting that we should fund the elections in kind, not in terms of money. So, recently, the Cabinet approved those proposals and I submitted those proposals to the Election Commission for discussing them with various political parties. I have not yet received the minutes of the Election Commission or the consensus arrived at in that meeting. But, the Government is very eager to assist political parties by partially providing funds.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, some of us also attended that all-party meeting which was called by the Election Commission the other day. And, our sense is not that the Government has really decided the totality of the proposals by the Inderjit Gupta Committee. Now, the proposal for State funding of elections was to really bring down the poll expenditure overall and to create a level-playing field. Now, the hon. Minister himself admitted that use of helicopters and private jets for certain parties is exempt from the expenditure during elections. Now, in that case, the fund that will be advanced by the Governments, whether it is the Central Government or the State Government, will actually act as a subsidy for those political parties in so far as the total expenditure is concerned and whether this distorted form of State funding was in the mind of Inderjit Gupta Committee which also included the present Prime Minister.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, it is very well known that two years ago, we discussed electoral reforms in this House and certain provisions were approved. So far as the use of helicopters or aircraft is concerned, it was discussed in this House and these were approved because of the security considerations of very senior leaders including the Prime Minister. They have to be provided these facilities-security as well as the transport. That has been exempted and other ceiling has remained the same. As a matter of fact, I am very happy to tell this House that the ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs

or so, in a parliamentary election, is being adhered to by the Election Commission. Earlier, there was no limit on party expenditure and the explanation that allowed this was done away with in the law made in 2003. So, the process of electoral reforms reducing the influence of big money is an ongoing process. The idealism, which we want to arrive at, has not yet come. And, I hope that the consensus of political parties one day will provide us and it requires the support of all political parties. Divergent views are there. All these Leftist parties have their own views, but Inderjit Gupta Committee was uniformally accepted and the required partial funding which the Government has approved. Once the Election Commission gives the nod that are ready. we will be very willing to do that. And, any other consensus which this House resolves, we will implement that.

श्री सभापति: माननीय मंत्री महोदय, इसको फाइनल शेप देने से पहले क्या यह उचित होगा कि आप इस सदन में इस विषय के ऊपर चर्चा करा लें?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am ready, in whatever form it comes. As a matter of fact, it will require certain amendments in the law. We will do that.

Changes in school syllabus

*23. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce tennis teen sensation Sania Mirza in the syllabus of primary schools;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out for this purpose;

(c) whether Government would like to aim and see how issues of culture are linked to the making of the contemporary world;

(d) if so, the comments of Government thereupon;

(e) whether Government are of the view that the introduction of these chapters would evoke a positive response from the students; and

(f) if so, the comments of Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.